

Raised House Bill No. 5485, An Act Concerning the Office of the Victim Advocate
Judiciary Committee

March 19, 2010

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20 Norway Road
North Haven, CT 06473

To Whom It May Concern,

I regret that I am not in attendance to present my statement in support of the Office of the Victim Advocate.

My statement is brief and to the point.

Since February 2007, the Office of the Victim Advocate has been of invaluable service to my family, particularly myself, with regard to a male neighbor, Mr. Frederick Damiani, who had a ten-year history of victimizing and harassing us. Mr. Damiani was arrested in 2007 and charged with Disorderly Conduct against us and arrested again in 2009 for Breach of Peace against us. Refer to State vs. Damiani (Docket No. 239196) and State vs. Damiani (Docket No. 253774).

Without the assistance, advice, support and encouragement of Ms. Merit Lajoie of the Office of the Victim Advocate, I do not know how I would have gotten through this terrible ordeal. She was with me every step of the way. Her expert advice and continued words of encouragement gave me the inner strength to confront my harasser in open Court and see that justice was served.

I strongly feel that the work of the Office of the Victim Advocate is extremely vital in advancing rights of crime victims, and most importantly, seeing the continued independence of the Office.

Sandra A. Piontek